

Art of Vision

This is a story of a man who changed the lives of plenty of women by breaking the chains of poverty and employing them.

Hemchand ji owned a small wood craft business in Udaipur, which he had to close down since wood was expensive and cutting trees was a threat to the environment.

He was always interested in cooperatives and started looking for some raw material that was eco-friendly and easily available. Clay or mitti was the best option which is not only biodegradable and freely available but also ever available. This young entrepreneur idea took shape some 13 years ago as an NGO called "Suvidha Sansthan" which is registered in Sirohi.

He chose Siyava village as his workplace. It is a small tribal village on the way to Amba Ji temple, approximately 7 Km away from Abu Road. Moreover it is well connected by rail and road to other major cities so transports of good becomes very easy. Siyava also had a large unemployed tribal population which fulfilled the need for labour. With all this infrastructure easily available for the business, he thought Siyava to be just perfect.

In order to execute his idea, he trained a group of women in different trades like clay sculpture, Rebari and tribal dress designing and weaving, tribal jewellery making etc. currently there are 70 people employed in this NGO and all the girls and women are over 18 years of age. There is no dearth of labour. Moreover the tribal women are very honest and efficient. The entire process of making clay sculpture takes place



in 4 stages. Initially a group of 5-6 women prepares the clay; it is then sculpted into traditional and tribal models and figures. Once dry, it is heated in furnace at high temperatures to avoid cracks and breaking. They are then coloured and polished into magnificent pieces of tribal art.

There is a special team that works for hair styling of the models using sheep hair to make styles akin to Rajasthani tribal women and men. The senior team then completes and packs the models, which are now ready to enter the market. These products enjoy national market and also have a popular demand in the international market. Hemchand Ji informed us about their customers in Texas, USA, who love these clay models so much that the production is always way short of the demand.

The best thing about these models is that they are very tribal and Rajasthani. Proper detailing of dress and jewellery along with hair styles and turbans is done to give a traditional touch to the models. The colours and shades used are so earthy and vibrant that these miniature

models are loved by people across the world. Apart from clay sculptures, these women also make beautiful tribal jewellery which is intricately woven using around 50 fine threads and minute glass beads of myriad colours. The jewellery is also in great demand. Whereas, a piece of clay jewellery costs from 200-1200 rupees, a tribal necklace weighs around 200-300 grams and is priced from 1000-1500 rupees. The NGO has also brought Rebari and tribal dresses into the national market. They aesthetically choose the designs from ancient sarees and bed-sheets and colour them in vibrant traditional shades.

Among the lot of women, who have been working in this trade for the last 10 years, Tipu is an exceptionally talented tribal lady who has also been conferred with the President Award in 2006 for her creativity and skill in making Rajasthani clay sculptures. She was sent to China, Switzerland and Italy by the Indian government for display and sale of her masterpieces in international markets. The NGO has a total sale of

Continued on page 2

Re Defining Values

Love, peace, happiness, care, purity, power and knowledge are the basic values of human life. They are the fundamentals of our existence as individuals and foundation of our co-existence in harmony and cooperation with others.

But let us take a deep look into the value systems. Is the list mentioned above sufficient? Do values apply only to human relationships? Are there any other kind of values and conduct which we must abide by for a holistic journey in life?

For a small discussion on this issue and sharing his experience with our listeners, S. Sabharinathan, Deputy Director General, Door-Darshan, New Delhi was in our studio the other day. Here is the gist of our discussion with him:

India is an old land of mysteries and stories, epics and scriptures, the most ancient land with the most vivid and glorious cultural and spiritual past. The history has innumerable instances of the interlinking of values with the common daily happenings of life. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, there are stories which are repeatedly told to induce values in the modern life.

He shared a story in which a farmer found pots of gold coins while tilling his land and he went to the head of the clan to divide the treasure equally between him and his brother, even though he wasn't legally bound, but his conscience forced him to do so. He believed that the pots might have been buried by his father long back, and since they were found on the margin separating his land from his brother's, it was his moral duty to share it. There was no question of not sharing it, or stealthily keeping it. This implies that man's mind has been pure and the present-day so-called 'natural negative aspect' did not even exist.

Such values of respect, brotherhood, equality, honesty, helpful

nature are of societal importance. They define our stature in the society and encourage fellow feeling. These are social values that are vital for the stability of a society.

'let us take a deep look into the value systems'

He told another story of a small girl of 10 years living with her farmer father in a small village of Kerala. They suffered from food scarcity because birds and farm animals used to eat all their seeds during the night. So the girl employed a crude and basic sound making system in the field to scare away the birds. She put empty tins of 'dalda ghee' in such a fashion that the water from the hill would fall in the tins, thus making noise and then the water would circulate in the field to irrigate the land.

Such ideas of scientific brilliance are inherent to human design or in fact to the animals also. They also take proper care of their families and estimate their food requirements in general as well as before going into hibernation in case of reptiles. These values of innovation, development, design improvement, eco-friendly construction and green technology are intricately woven into the human fabric.

Man has always been dependent on environment for all his needs. The forests, animals and nature have been at man's disposal at all times. It is only in the recent times that problems have cropped up.

Before the advancement of medical facilities, we were completely dependent on nature for cure of ailments too. These are called environmental and medical values, wherein basic herbal or natural cures solve a lot of daily life problems. India has also been famous for its medicinal history.

Patriotic values are also important. Sacrifice, leadership, responsibility,

togetherness are some of the key values required for building up the nation.

So we find that values are not only limited to the existence of human beings, but also form a very integral part of our co-existence with the nature. Our history has a lot to teach us. The same basic value of love can be applied to fellow beings, scientific exploration, nature, etc. Similarly, the value of respect can be applied to human relations, respect for intellect, and respect for our motherland.

The list of values is endless, but can be summed up in seven values of Love, Power, Purity, Peace, Bliss, Knowledge and Joy. They are all interlinked and can exist only if others exist in togetherness.

'Art of Vision' ...Continued from page 2

around 30-35 lacks per year in which the Indian market contributes 60%.

They have also ventured into dairy products like desi ghee, milk shakes, butter, lassi etc. to employ more and more tribal people and help them sustain their families. They constantly try to cut down the cost of raw material and make the prices affordable so as to enjoy a greater market.

In this way, tribal families are gradually becoming financially stable. People who till the other day did not have basic facilities have come a long way with a wonderful effort by the "suvidha sansthan".



Painting the canvas of life with colors unseen

Giving a new perspective to life with closed eyes, without the slightest hint of reality

India shoulders the largest burden of global blindness, about 20 million across the country, in a population of 1.22 billion, with 50,000 new cases being added each year to the blind and visually impaired masses. Among those are 320,000 children under the age of 16, constituting one fifth of the world's blind children. While India needs 40,000 optometrists, it has only 8,000.

Even though, these specially-abled children are truly gifted with unique talents but their lives are marked with great misery and despair. Although they are not born with dark vision, but the darkness in their eyes induces shadow on their talents, thus blackening their entire life. Grounded by the vicious cycle of endless poverty and unfortunate illiteracy they have inadequate access, if any, to the fundamental needs of livelihood.



In most parts of the country, the scenario is the same. However, some organisations are significantly working to help uplift these helpless millions. One such society is the Blind School of Mt. Abu, which aims to bring light in these children's lives and a sparkle of hope and happiness in their eyes by guiding them through myriad forms of art and craft towards self-sustainability.

The children of this Blind School of Mt. Abu display outstanding skill in playing instruments like Flute, Harmonium and Dholak, instruments which they have never seen, but

Aankhen!

*Hajaron Raaz dilon ke kholti hain Aankhen,
Zuban se kuch na bolo phir bhi bolti hain Aankhen.
Kabhi chanchal kabhi sheetal kabhi Nirmal Kabhi Komal
Kabhi hansti hain, aur kabhi roti hain Aankhen
Kabhi raton ka andhere, kabhi din ke ujalon main.
Kahin pe gum, kahin khushiyan bikherti hain Aankhen
Ujalon ki phikar chode andheri raas aye hain
Ki dard unko pucho, jinki hoti nahi hain Aankhen !*

their hands are so trained to play with these pieces to produce soothing melodies. They have an ear for music. Their zeal for learning music has also attracted the international singer Mr. Anwar Ahmed Khan of Jaipur to their school. Surprisingly, with the help of their music teacher, they have produced over 100 songs about the beauty of nature which they cannot appreciate and the encapsulating expanse of the environment which they can only feel.



Because of the inspirational and motivating magic of their voices and with cultural performance and musical concerts on different occasions in different states, they have become a celebrated group in the area, the Polo ground of Mt. Abu being their most common stage.

Apart from musical magnificence, their hands have crafted thousands of candles which have lit others' lives. The same light which has left their own lives untouched. Their candles are especially famous among the local hotels. Not only this, the school has equipped them with the art of making gooseberry candies and weaving chair. Creating wonders in wonder, aren't they?

The school has made every effort to support these children and help them find a place in the society. The school also has a very well maintained digital library, with around 2000 books on general knowledge, competitive exams and even the religious scriptures in both Hindi and English in digital format.

It is grief striking to know how a blind boy Pramod, student of class 12th, describes the emotions of eyes (see poem above 'Aankhen')

Undoubtedly, their talents know no bounds. So what if they haven't seen the world, they show us a different realm of the world we live in. These children exemplify the fact that if trained and guided properly with patience, they can work wonders and bring a smile on dull faces, a sparkle in so many eyes. Truly, "disabled" surpassing the abilities of the "able". Are they really disabled? Ironically, the blind are great visionaries.



Mera Gaon, Mera Anchal

Knowledge of goodness, be it in spiritual and virtuous goals or healthy social living, is essential to a civilized existence. It has been with this goal in mind that the Radio Madhuban, in collaboration with the Rajasthan government and certain like-minded NGOs, endeavoured on World

The admission of children to educational institutions is imbalanced for obvious reasons. While girl child is expected to do the household work, male children are supposed to lend a helping hand to their parents in the farming activities. While most villagers ask for an upgradation of



Literacy Day to reach out to the people, particularly in the rural belt to assess and improve their resources of education. We approached the Basa, Khera and Chauhano ki Phall villages and were really shocked to find a casual approach to true and meaningful education amongst the villagers as well as educators.

their primary and middle schools to the level of a secondary one, their children with the available education facilities cannot even count upto 100. They blame this to the lack of teachers and a casual attitude of the authorities towards education.



It was painful to find that while Basa had about 550 students there were only 10 teachers to cater to their literacy needs. Bhainsa Singh village has 150 students and Khera has 125 students while Chauhano ki Phalli has only 157 students in the population of more than 2000. In an adjoining region a single teacher is supposed to cater to the literacy needs of 61 students from 1st to 5th standards.

The villagers like Alam Khan, Wali Ahmed and Pinto of Basa floated the idea of evening/ night schools so that the adults could also be benefited, a teacher of that area Deepak Sharma of Khera found it unfeasible for lack of proper transport and non-availability of electricity.

With the fast growing industrialization in the neighbourhood, villager feel the need for good and quality education so that they can afford a good and comfortable life of modern gadgets and can sustain a good economic base for their children. No doubt it is inspiringly pleasing to find children of primary schools well dressed and following a disciplined life style, even praying before their meals and tiffin in school.

Mangi Lal, a student of BA I year in a college at Abu Road aims to

be a police officer, while Raju of Amthala, who is already a matriculate and employed in Shantivan Security, wishes to complete his Senior Secondary. Amrita of Chauhano ki Phalli who is 5th class pass, has three children and runs a shop, realizes the significance of education for children. At the same time she is helpless because she lacks financial means to fulfill her desire.

Amidst these stories of disappointment in the district there is the beacon of light coming from Valoriya village. This village has, with determination and strong efforts, has achieved the goal of complete literacy. The school has only 10 teachers, who have been working very hard and sincerely. They have planned in such a way that they are meeting every class from 1st to 10th in which there are 234 boys and 85 girls and it is with their efforts that the village can boast of good literacy level. These dedicated teachers have not only worked for their students' literacy but they have also sent teams in various state level sports and extra-curricular competitions.



During the week long campaign some engineering students came to Radio Madhuban. When asked they gave different reasons for the backwardness in education. One suggested poverty and corruption for the lack of education while others held a lack of basic amenities like electricity, transport etc. as the cause of this social evil. Mr. Narayan Singh Sisodhia, principal of a secondary school felt that education is essential to build oratory skills and public confidence amongst the youth. A lack of education seriously effects consumerism amongst people.

Mr. Subodh Shivhare, who runs many hostels for boys as well as for girls in different parts of the Sirohi district has been instrumental in providing education and training in art and culture to students of poor sections of the society.



People have to be awakened and united under the umbrella of education. They must become a part of this transformation towards a literate India. Mind-set needs to be shaken and attitude needs to be changed to lead them to a developed life.

'Janchetna' is a 26 years old organization that works for upliftment of the tribal people. It has started a program called "room to read" under which libraries in 75 primary schools of Abu Road Block have been set up with an aim to promote free and independent self-learning among kids. With head office in Akbhatta Housing Board and a staff of 30 people, the organization also serves as an enquiry and information centre for the local people.

Apart from this, Block Education officer Mr Dalpat Raj Purohit, informed us about the various competitions like essay writing, poem recitation, storytelling, book competition along with rallies and campaigns to spread awareness among tribal people.



Let There Be Light

Hon'ble Shri Raj Kumar Sharma, Minister of Health, Rajasthan recently graced the Radio Madhuban with his esteemed presence on the occasion of WCCPCI 2012.



Informing about the new 'Free Treatment' scheme launched by the Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot he said that now any patient below the poverty line will be treated free of charge in

any Government hospital in Rajasthan. He also added this health care scheme has led to a decline in the infant and mother's mortality rate (MMR). This has also helped overcome some of the superstitions related to ailments, death and medical science.

He also congratulated the Radio Madhuban for the social and spiritual service being rendered by the

organization and hoped that the common people will benefit from the immense work being done by Radio Madhuban as one of the mediums to spread the governmental schemes to tribal people. Wishing health and happiness to listeners in the coming festival season he expressed his desire for a new show on 90.4 FM that would enlighten and encourage farmers and their families to educate their children.

Meditation is thousand times superior to Medication.



The president speaks...

Dr HK Chopra, President of the World Congress of Cardiology graced the Radio Madhuban studio with his presence and shared some highly valuable information with our listeners. He gave a clear understanding of the functioning of our heart and the effects of lifestyle on our heart.

He said that most people are unaware of their hearts. They don't know their hearts are working

perfectly fine or there is a potential problem to look after. It is very important to know what to eat, when to eat, where to eat and how much to eat. It is a fundamental fact that heart has a direct connection with our thoughts, which are the outcome of our consciousness. Thus if the consciousness is modulated by rajyoga meditation, we may not fall prey to any heart problems. Meditation helps to increase concentration, induce positive thoughts, boost confidence and keep you away from drug addiction.

Meditation takes one into the field of eternity, peace and stability, infinite possibilities and probabilities, a field of divinity. If one works at a level lower than the consciousness of being a soul, there is hostility, aggression, agitation, depression,

Continued on Page 6

Education not limited just to school and books

Here is an excerpt from an interview with Shri R Krishna Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Yashwant Rao Chauhan Maharashtra Open University, Nasik.

RM: Sir, why do you think that values and morals are imperative in life today?

RKK: Knowledge and values go hand in hand. To bring about a positive change in our youth, value-based education needs to be given a proper place of priority in the academic scheme of the country. Of course the elders and parents need to play the Role-Model.

RM: In these times of cut-throat competition, how can we promote values in schools and colleges?

RKK: Some 10-15 years back, a lot of emphasis was laid on moral education in academic institutions, which has significantly decreased now-a-days. The moral and ethical decline of the society has become a serious concern of all people. I believe schools and colleges must start again and promote courses in moral education and values and other related spiritual fields. In this age of technology, when a small child has the skill and access to advance technology and machinery, I think online courses should not be a difficult or impracticable idea.

RM: Sir, what would you say about the present 'moral trend' in the Indian society?

RKK: I think, India is one such nation which has sustained its cultural traditions and moral teachings even in the face of technological onslaught. The fundamentals of Indian culture still find a place in our daily life. Children do seek blessings from parents, they believe and have faith in the existence of God, they pray for the well-being of all. But yes, the anti-social elements have also grown and spread in the society.

It is a fact that career has become more important to people and character has lost its significance. The wide chasm between teachers and students restricts the flow of knowledge and facilitates only to a transfer of scientific and historical facts.

RM: Sir, how do you define an ideal teacher?

RKK: The old maxim, "a teacher is a friend, guide and philosopher" should be the definition of an ideal teacher. He should facilitate all-round development of the child and identify his potentials to bring out their best. The bond between a teacher and a student is uniquely inspiring that can always be cherished and enjoyed.

RM: What is your assessment of the prevalent low literacy rate in most parts of the country?

RKK: We should not define literacy as mere ability to sign or identify alphabet but it should be one's ability to express, read and write with understanding. To uphold literacy levels, common people should be encouraged to take support of the modern learning technology, distance learning from open universities and should be guided to take up simple learning process like reading newspaper and simple books. People of all ages should be encouraged to learn and study.

RM: Since you are the Vice Chancellor of an open university, I would like to know whether a degree from a regular college is better than the one from an open university.

RKK: No, not at all. Today, when population is bursting at the seams and infrastructural needs swelling immensely, distance learning courses offered by open universities are not only a good solution but also economically feasible,



allowing the students to learn other skills or add to work experience. Also, the degree, in general, is losing its importance being replaced by soft skills of a candidate. The degree from an open university is equally valid and valuable, because the true assessment of education is not based on the quality or agency of a paper certificate.

RM: What message would you like to give to our listeners?

RKK: Don't lag behind, please learn and educate yourself and others around you. Only a learned family is a happy family.

Meditation Continued from Page 6.

frustration and cynical behaviour. In living consciously as a soul, there is love, compassion, sympathy, joy, peace and purity which automatically flow and 60 trillion body cells, 6 trillion chemical reactions and 60 neuropeptides of the body are positively affected.

Meditation activates the Para-Sympathetic nervous system thus generating happy molecules like endorphins and serotonin. Thus we need to meditate regularly to enjoy a healthy life.

He reiterated that we must never avoid seeing a doctor and get regularly checked after the age of 40. Lifestyle optimization, anger, stress & weight management coupled with proper diet and exercise help to prevent, regress and reverse heart attacks.

'Swarnim Bharat' Desh Bhakti Sangeet Spardha

On the distinct occasion of International Youth Day and India's 66th Independence Day, Radio Madhuban 90.4 FM organized a patriotic song competition for the youth of Abu Road and Mt. Abu on 12th of August 2012. The event was aptly titled "Golden- age India" to highlight the country's golden past and to inspire young individuals to work for that glorious age.

Participants were divided into three age groups of 11-15 years, 16-20 years and 21-25 years. Children and young singers from Abu Road and Mt Abu actively participated in the event and enthralled the audience with their scintillating performances.



The SPIC MACAY member of Sirohi chapter, Mrs. Ruchi Purohit , Mrs. Rekha Nagpure, Music teacher from Abu Road, very renowned and noted singer B.K. Satish of Mt. Abu and Shri Anwar Ahmed Khan of Jaipur tradition were the esteemed judges.

Prizes were given to first three awardees in all three groups while certificates of appreciation were given to all the participants.

Mr. Hadvant Singh Devda, Block Head, Mt. Abu, awarded the proud

winners. Students of St. John's school and CIT College bagged maximum prizes. Though a lot of people had gathered to boost the confidence of the participants, Radio Madhuban 90.4 FM broadcast the programme live from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm.



Group A: 1st prize, Parikshit Gurjar, Sai Baba School, Abu Road



2nd prize, Ruchi Shanma, St. Johns School, Abu Road



3rd prize, Sonu Devda, St. Johns School, Abu Road



Group B: 1st prize, Nivedita, St. Johns School, Abu Road



2nd Prize, Praveen Parihar, CIT Collage, Abu Road



3rd Prize, Nitish Roy, CIT Collage, Abu Road



Group C: 1st Prize, Damini



2nd Prize, Shahil Bhatt



3rd prize, Mayank Sharma



Mr. Ramesh Tawadkar, Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs, Goa



Dr. Mahadeven Shankar Ayer, Psycho Therapist



Mr. Rajesh Kumar Kshirsagar, MLA, Kolhapur



Mr. Maninderjit Singh Bitta, Chairman (AIATF)



Mr. Jitendra Singh Soni, SDM, Mt. Abu



Mrs. Manjusha Patil, Classical Singer



Closing of Rashtriya Netra Daan Pakhwada - Live



Mr. Rajendra N. Seth, USA & Prof. Abdullah Al Shafi Majumder, Bangladesh